



Sen. Joe Zarelli
P.O. Box 40418
205 Irv Newhouse Bldg.
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786-7634
zarelli.joseph@leg.wa.gov
1-800-562-6000

Committee Assignments

- Ways & Means, Ranking Republican
- International Trade & Economic Development
- Rules

Important Dates:

Wednesday, Feb. 16th
Senate Early Learning, K-12
& Higher Education
Committee will hold a public
hearing on:

SB 5677 – Revoking teacher
certificates of employees
possessing pornography on
school grounds

Help me save a stamp

If you would like to receive
this update via e-mail,
please let me know! I take
the spending of tax dollars
very seriously. While I
believe it is important for
you to have this
information, I want to be
sure I'm saving money
when and where I can.

Sen. Joe Zarelli's

UPDATE FROM OLYMPIA

2/11/05

Dear Friends,

Many of you contacted my office this week after Chelan County Superior Court Judge John Bridges made his ruling regarding Dino Rossi's election contest. Contrary to what many media outlets reported, the possibility for a revote is NOT dead at all!

While Judge Bridges stated he had no power to call for a revote, "as soon as practicable," he has allowed as a remedy the ability to declare the election "**null and void.**" Thus, if the Judge rules in Rossi's favor in the election contest, he could null and void the election. This would remove Christine Gregoire from office thus leaving the office of Governor vacant. It is then likely Lt. Governor Brad Owen would become "temporary Governor," until a new election could be held in November.

Also, here are a few bills I want to bring to your attention this week:

Senate Bill 5747 – This measure ties the state's minimum wage increases to the state's unemployment rate. When Washington's unemployment rate is above the national average, the automatic minimum wage increase is suspended until the state's rate falls below the federal rate. At that point, the minimum wage index for inflationary adjustments kicks in again. Suspending minimum wage increases during times of high unemployment in our state will help people keep their jobs and stop the loss of more jobs because employers can't afford the higher wages.

Senate Bill 5637 and House Bill 1702 – Dubbed the "Health Care Responsibility Act," this legislation should be called the "Play or Pay Act" as it requires employers to provide health care insurance or **pay a tax to enroll employees in the state's Basic Health Care Plan**. There are better ways to provide health care for employees than issuing state mandates.

Also, there is an attempt to resurrect the old ergonomics requirements. This proposal is a violation of the spirit of 2003's Initiative 841, which finally ended these burdensome regulations.

As always, please contact my office and let me know what you think of these proposals. It is a pleasure serving you in Olympia.

Sincerely,

Sen. Joe Zarelli, 18th Legislative District

District Day – You are invited!

The 18th Legislative District Day will be held on Wednesday, March 23. The day will include a tour of the newly-refurbished Legislative Building, lunch (**bring your own brown-bag lunch**) with myself, Rep. Orcutt and Rep. Curtis, a tour of the Governor's Mansion and a tour of the Temple of Justice. We will start the day at 10:00 a.m. in the State Reception Room, located in the Legislative Building. Please contact my office if you plan on attending!